

Obama deficit commission to merely maintain defense spending at its post-WWII high, and who deemed a "crisis" the idea of a 1 percent—\$5 billion—reduction in the 2011 defense budget compared to 2010.

Some on Capitol Hill, such as the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Buck McKeon (R-Calif.), blanch at the idea of restraining defense spending, claiming it would be "dangerous" to do anything but grow the defense budget while the nation is "at war."

They don't just ignore the facts, they torture them—but that's nothing new in politics. What is different, however, is that the aggressive ignorance about the defense budget is beginning to shrivel, revealing a new paradigm: the defense budget is outrageously bloated.

The new conventional wisdom is that we now spend more on the Pentagon than at any time since WWII, and that President Obama will exceed George W. Bush's defense spending. Some even appreciate that he will also exceed Ronald Reagan's. Others understand defense spending does not just exceed a few other functions in presidents' budgets, it exceeds them all, except one—Social Security. In most cases, DOD doesn't just exceed the others; it is multiples of them.

During the Cold War, we averaged \$450 billion annual Pentagon budgets. Today, with no massive conventional threat and a much-diminished nuclear one, we operate at spending levels more than \$200 billion higher, if you include funding for the wars—almost \$100 billion higher if you do not.

The distortion of a lesser threat compelling more spending is propelling the paradigm shift.

Moreover, the wars we have been fighting are against poorly trained and equipped irregulars. It is not to diminish the sacrifice the national leadership extracts from the men and women who serve in Afghanistan and, previously, Iraq, but today's conflicts are—materially—minor events compared to the wars in Korea and Vietnam, when we deployed hundreds of thousands more and faced more than 200 Soviet and Warsaw Pact divisions in Europe.

While we have spent more than \$1.3 trillion for Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 (in inflation-adjusted 2011 dollars), we also added another trillion dollars to the parts of the defense budget that the Pentagon tells us is not for the wars—the so-called "base" budget.

Just before 9/11 we were operating at an annual level of spending for the Pentagon at \$400 billion. Today, in the same inflation-adjusted dollars, we are operating at a "base" budget level well above \$500 billion. It is in that context that we are told by Gates and McKeon that a 1 percent reduction in a single year constitutes a "crisis" or something "dangerous."

The real crisis is what has been happening to our forces. With a \$300 billion increase in funding, the Navy's "battleforce" shrank from 318 ships in 2000 to 287 in 2010. With more than \$300 billion added to its budget, the Air Force shrank from 146 combat squadrons to 72. The Army burned another \$300 billion to increase brigade combat team equivalents from 44 to just 46. According to data from the Congressional Budget Office, this includes not a smaller, newer equipment inventory, but an older one.

Worse, the Pentagon can't track its own inventory, financial transactions, or even what it has paid out to contractors and received in return. Despite the accountability clause of the Constitution, the General Accounting Act of 1921, and the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Pentagon has maintained itself in a state where it cannot be audited.

But then, if I were presiding over this mess, I would want not you to know the facts either.

HONORING DON ROBERTSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Robertson of Marietta, Georgia.

For 26 years, Don has been the headmaster of The Walker School. This school year will be his last as he embarks on a much deserved retirement. The Cobb County Community is sad to see such a great educator leave but we are grateful that he and his family have been such an integral part of our community.

What makes him such a respected educator is that Don has always been willing to assist a student in need. Although he would never volunteer this information, Don has paid the reenrollment fees for countless students to continue their higher education at Walker. This is a common occurrence with a co-worker from all of his 26 years commenting "if only I had a nickel for every dollar he contributed to tuition of his students . . ."

Mr. Speaker, Don often is introduced by his own faculty as "The World's Best Headmaster." He has been a formidable mentor to young faculty. So much so, many of his mentees have gone on to be principals and headmasters themselves at other educational institutions.

Don is always willing to give his all to the betterment of the Walker community. During the annual silent auction, Don offers up his culinary skills with all proceeds going to the school. "Won-ton Don" prepares from scratch an Oriental meal for the winning bid, which is always one of the most popular items at the auction.

Mr. Speaker, Don has been a strategic planner for The Walker School and it has never been more evident than today. When Don first came to Walker in 1985, the school had 450 students and one building. Under Don's leadership, Walker recently completed an \$11.5 million building program which significantly enhanced the academic and athletic facilities. Today, he leaves the school with a student population of 1,038, 34 acres of land, more than 1 million square feet of teaching space, seven buildings that house three libraries, two gymnasiums, three dining halls, a technology center, Preschool, Lower School, and Middle and Upper Schools. Without question, Don built Walker to what it is today.

Walker's Mission is to provide an excellent college-preparatory education in a nurturing environment that values personal integrity, prizes creativity, and inspires the lifelong love of learning. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that Don Robertson has done just that.

Don compiled a faculty of substance to help prepare students for college and for life. The school has over 180 professional staff members, with advanced degrees held by 71 percent of Walker's lead teachers. Don believes in his faculty. At every faculty meeting, he draws the name of a teacher out of a hat. Whichever teacher he draws, he substitutes for them for the entire day, giving them a much deserved day of rest.

It is no small task but Don has cultivated a learning environment that students want to immerse themselves in. As a mathematics instructor, Don has made students appreciate the subject, which in and of itself is a huge accomplishment. Tellingly, 100 percent of The Walker School graduates are accepted to a college or university.

When asked about what makes The Walker School special, Don stated: "An intangible spirit exists in the faces of our students, during conversations with our committed faculty and staff, visits from our alumni, and in the dedicated work of our volunteers and parents."

Mr. Speaker, Don is a devoted father and grandfather of three. I know he is looking forward to being able to spend more time with his grandchildren.

Don, I thank you for your service to the children of Cobb County and I wish you the best in the next chapter of your life.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Don Robertson for his commitment to the education of our Nation's future leaders and the betterment of his community.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH J. HUNT,
PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL,
AND REINFORCING IRON-
WORKERS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph J. Hunt. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women.

Joseph J. Hunt was elected General President of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers on February 23, 2001. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he is a third generation ironworker. His father, Joseph Hunt, Sr., and his grandfather, Jim Hunt, both held offices in Iron Workers Local Union No. 396, St. Louis. As his father and grandfather before him, Joe has held numerous positions in Local No. 396 including that of Business Manager. In 1983 he was appointed a General Organizer and assigned to International Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He first served as Assistant to the Director of Jurisdiction and then became Assistant to the General Treasurer. In 1990, he returned to St. Louis and was elected President of the Iron Workers District Council of St. Louis. In 1994, Joe was appointed General Vice President and in December of 1998 he was appointed General Treasurer.

Between May and July of 2001, Joe was both elected as an Executive Board Member of the Maritime Trades Department and as a Vice President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Subsequently, in August of the same year, he was elected as an Executive Board Member of the Metal Trades Department.

During his distinct career, Joe served as a member of the Governing Board of Presidents of the Building and Construction Trades Department and the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans. While he

served on the Board of Directors of Union Labor Life Insurance Company, Joe was elected as Chairman of the Board on August 3rd, 2003. In addition, Joe has served in other labor related positions including Vice President and Executive Board Member of the St. Louis Building Trades Council, Executive Board Member of the Missouri Building Trades Council, Trustee and Executive Board Member of the St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Chairman of the National Stack and Chimney Committee, and Secretary of the Regional Committee of the National Infrastructure Alliance. His extensive and impressive resume also includes serving as a Board Member of the Maria Droste Home, as a Trustee of the Arch Mutual Fund, and as a Board Member of FIRMCO.

A 1987 graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program, Joe and his wife Jan have four children including son Joe (who is also a member of Local 396), as well as eleven grandchildren. They all currently reside in St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends, and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and services. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and in wishing him good health and success in all of his future endeavors.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act.

Today, Congress could have had a legitimate and necessary debate about the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Does FIFRA do an adequate job of regulating pesticides or should the Clean Water Act supplement these efforts to address water quality issues? But that is not the debate we are having today.

Instead, the Republican majority is forcing a vote to ban the EPA from ever applying the Clean Water Act to pesticides discharges into our Nation's waters. H.R. 872 removes a critical tool the EPA may need to protect public health and it weakens America's most important clean water legislation.

This is a deceptive piece of legislation. Proponents claim H.R. 872 merely eliminates a duplicative bureaucratic process for pesticide application. In fact, if passed, H.R. 872 could permanently stop our ability to control and manage pesticide pollution found in America's rivers, lakes and streams.

H.R. 872 would reverse a 2009 court decision. That decision found that the use of some pesticides and herbicides at times is a form of water pollution requiring a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Across the country, over a thousand waterways are known to be "impaired" or polluted because of pesticides. Many more waters may be polluted but have not even been tested. In my home State of Minnesota—land

of 10,000 lakes—a past U.S. Geological Survey study concluded that pesticides in rivers and streams in central Minnesota were "ubiquitous." Endocrine disruptors possibly linked to the use of pesticides have led to the rise of mutating fish in the Mississippi River and 11 Minnesota lakes.

Pesticide pollution in American waters is a problem that requires close review. I believe EPA is doing its job, as determined by the courts, to investigate and attempt to reduce harmful pesticide discharges into water bodies. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has told my office that they are working diligently to implement the federal court decision and the EPA's permitting efforts. I am concerned that H.R. 872 would stop state pollution control agencies across the country from their important work of regulating pesticide chemicals in our water.

Moreover, H.R. 872 is being rushed to passage with little debate. It is being considered under suspension of the rules, a procedure usually reserved for non-controversial bills. Opposing witnesses were not allowed to testify during committee hearings and the Republican majority broke its promises to work with members who had offered and then withdrawn amendments in committee. This is no way to consider a bill that has serious consequences for human health, wildlife and the environment.

Instead of tying EPA's hands, Congress should be encouraging, even pressing, the EPA to address water pollution that is threatening the health of our families and ecosystems. I oppose H.R. 872 and the overreaching effort to rush this bill through the legislative process.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—REBECCA JAMES

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve

those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my community service contribution this year I participated in a dance marathon that raised close to five thousand dollars for Habitat for Humanity at Dallas. I was actually the founder of this event and coordinated every detail of the fundraiser. My dance marathon consisted of dancing and activities for a solid twelve hours. The event took place at my high school and included one hundred and eleven determined students. I was very happy with the outcome of this program and so was my beneficiary—Habitat for Humanity. Dance marathon 2011 was an incredible experience and a quite rewarding way to spend a Saturday. Not only did I dance with one hundred of my closest friends; I also met new people, raised awareness about a great cause, and raised money for a deserving neighbor in Dallas. The money we earned will be going to a family that lives in Dallas and the five thousand dollars will be used to most likely buy paint or a new door. It is great to know that I planned such a successful event, and it is even more wonderful to know I have personally impacted and changed a person's life.

—Rebecca James

HONORING JERRY FELDHAUS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I rise to honor Jerry Feldhaus, an exemplary citizen of Missouri and the City of St. Louis. An active and accomplished, yet humble citizen who worked selflessly and tirelessly for the good of others, Jerry truly represents the best of America.

As a young man, Jerry's career as a pipe coverer was interrupted when he was called upon to serve our Nation. He answered that call and bravely defended our freedoms as a member of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

Jerry's commitment to helping others is demonstrated by his dedication to the trade union movement. For 31 years, he served as a board member, business representative, and business manager of the Asbestos Workers Union Local 1. For the past 12 years, Jerry served as the Executive Secretary-Treasury of the St. Louis Building & Construction Trades